

DARK CANYON *			
Forest boundary to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Recreation • Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National • National • National 	Wild

* Dark canyon Wilderness Study Area and Dark Canyon ACEC, and within Canyon Basins SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – The Dark Canyon area is roadless, primitive and undeveloped. The remote location, dramatic rugged terrain, deep walled canyon, and naturalness of the area create a high scenic value. It has unobstructed and expansive diversity of views including 1200 foot vertical cliff walls, rimrock, outcrops and spires, and a visual contrast from soil and rock color, flowing water, potholes, pour offs, and diverse vegetation located throughout the canyon and tributaries. Dark Canyon is one of the deepest canyon systems in the region.

The BLM portion of Dark Canyon watershed is contiguous with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area where it drains into the Colorado River, and with the Manti-LaSal National Forest where Dark Canyon is a designated wilderness area. Within the National Forest planning process, the Manti-LaSal NF found its portion of Dark Canyon to be eligible for Wild and Scenic River status with Lower Dark Canyon ORVs of Scenic, Geologic/Hydrologic, and Cultural found nationally significant. The Manti-LaSal National Forest section's Tentative Classification is listed Wild.

- **Recreation** – Dark canyon has a high rating of diversity including outstanding natural, historical, and cultural features offering recreational, educational, and scientific opportunities for visitors. A wide variety of opportunities for recreation are available, including backpacking, camping, photography, wildlife viewing, canyoneering and orienteering, and viewing prehistoric archeological sites. The Ancestral Puebloans used this canyon area leaving behind cliff dwellings, rock shelters, rock art, and storage areas, which can be viewed within the corridors of the Dark Canyon water sources. The canyon attracts visitors internationally.
- **Wildlife** – Dark Canyon is within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. Surveys have been conducted in this canyon and there have been owls using this area. Dark Canyon and its drainages also contain the only two protected activity center(s) (PAC) for the Mexican spotted owl within the Monticello Field

Office area. PACs are nest areas occupied at least once since 1989. The habitat is this canyon is also critical for peregrine falcon and other raptors, as well as desert bighorn sheep.